

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NEA-10 EB-11 OMB-01 AID-20

OPR-02 SY-10 NIC-01 DRC-01 EA-11 ARA-16 COME-00 /237 W

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R 160930Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1778

INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN 378

AMCONSUL DOUALA BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L YOUNDE 3415

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EK, KN, UR, PDEV, PINS, PFOR

SUBJECT: EQUATORIAL GUINEA FIFTH INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE INDICATIONS THAT EQUATORIAL GUINEA'S ECONOMIC SITUATION APPEARS SOMEWHAT MORE ENCOURAGING, BUOYED BY BETTER COCOA PRICES, NEW TIMBER EXPORTS AND INVESTMENTS, THIS YEAR'S INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS AT BATA, IN RIO MUNI PROVINCE, APPEARED LESS EXUBERANT AND MORE LOW KEYED THAN THOSE OF THE PAST YEAR. THE PRESIDENT CALLED FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH HIS NEIGHBORS, NIGERIA, CAMEROON AND GABON, BUT WARNED THAT HIS COUNTRY WAS READY TO DEFEND ITSELF. IT WAS CLEAR FROM MANY OF THE SLOGANS PLASTERED AROUND TOWN CONDEMNING THOSE WHO WOULD PLOT A COUP AND FROM PRESIDENT'S OWN REPORT OF AN ASSASSINATION PLAN, THAT INTERNAL SECURITY CONTINUES TO BE THE GOVERNMENT'S PRIMARY CONCERN.

2. TAKAG NOTE OF THE "BRIGHT SUN OF LIBERTY" BEARING DOWN ON
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THE SUBSTANTIAL CROWD ASSEMBLED IN BATA'S LIBERTY SQUARE ON

THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 12, PRESIDENT FRANCISCO MACIAS SPOKE ELOQUENTLY IN FANG AND SPANISH OF THE FIVE YEARS OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY WHICH INDEPENDENCE HAD BROUGHT TO HIS COUNTRY. HE SPOKE FREQUENTLY OF THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS PREVAILING WITH NEIGHBORING GABON, CAMEROON AND NIGERIA AND STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WAS FRIENDLY WITH ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. HE NONETHELESS INDICATED THAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD FIGHT VALIANTLY TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST AGGRESSIVE INTERESTS. ON A MORE GLOBAL FRONT, HE ANNOUNCED THAT ISRAEL WAS AT FAULT FOR THE PRESENT WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THAT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE BEING BROKEN. (YAOUNDE 3398). HE ALSO CALLED FOR EXPULSION OF SOUTH AFRICA AT THE UN AND CALLED UPON THE GREAT POWERS TO IMPOSE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND TO FORCE PORTUGAL TO GIVE UP ITS AFRICAN TERRITORIES. HE NOTED THAT THE GOEG HAD RECOGNIZED THE NEW GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA-BISSAU. NO SPECIFIC REFERENCE WAS MADE TO US-EG RELATIONS.

3. EXPRESSING HIS INDIGNATION AT UNNAMED INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC GROUPS WHO WERE PLOTTING AGAINST HIS GOVERNMENT AND HIS PERSON (SEE YAOUNDE 3416), HE NOTED THAT INTERNAL SECURITY WAS TO BE STRENGTHENED. APOLOGIZING TO DIPLOMATIC CORPS FOR NECESSITY TO END SOME OF ADVANTAGES AND PRIVILEGES THEY HAVE ENJOYED IN PAST, PRESIDENT MACIAS ANNOUNCED THAT ALL LUGGAGE, DIPLOMATIC OR NOT, WAS TO BE SEARCHED AT MALABO (EX SANTA ISABEL) AIRPORT. ONLY DIPLOMATIC BAGS WITH SEALS ARE TO BE EXEMPTED FROM THIS SECURITY REQUIREMENT.

4. THE INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE FEATURED SEVERAL THOUSAND MARCHING STUDENTS, TEACHERS, GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND OTHERS CHANTING THE FAMILIAR LITANY OF PRAISE FOR LIFETIME PRESIDENT MACIAS AND DISAPPROVAL OF EVILS OF COLONIALISM, NEOCOLONIALISM, IMPERIALISM AND ITS ASSOCIATED "SCIENTIFIC IMPERIALISM," ETC. FOR UNEXPLAINED REASONS, THE MARCHING MILITARY AND MILITIA APPEARED TO HAVE FEWER AUTOMATIC WEAPONS THAT WERE DISPLAYED LAST YEAR, BUT THE HEAVIER EQUIPMENT APPEARED ABOUT THE SAME.

5. IN VIVID CONTRAST TO THE BUSY ROUND OF INAUGERATIONS OF THE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY (PORT, PALACE, BRIDGE, BANK, ETC.), THIS YEAR'S EVENTS WERE FEW IN NUMBER. ALTHOUGH THE PALACE REPORTEDLY HAS A NEW POWERPLANT PERMITTING LIGHTS AND AIRCONDITIONING TO BE USED, THE

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PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION AND LUNCHEON FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND NATIONAL FUNCTIONARIES WAS HELD IN MODEST DOWNTOWN PARTY HALL. IN LATE AFTERNOON OF 12 OCTOBER, IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LOCAL SOVIET OFFICIAL COMMUNITY, SOVIET AMBASSADOR PRESENTED A SMALL HARBOR LAUNCH FOR USE OF PRESIDENT MACIAS.

6. ALL AMBASSADORS OR CHARGES RESIDENT IN MALABO WERE PRESENT AT BATA CEREMONIES (NIGERIA, SPAIN, FRANCE, USSR, GOR,

NORTH KOREA, CUBA, CPR, GABON, CAMEROON AND CONGO-BRAZZAVILLE)
PLUS AMERICAN AND ZAIRE AMBASSADORS RESIDENT IN YAOUNDE. AS
IN PREVIOUS YEARS SEVERAL EMBASSIES TOOK SPACE IN AN EXHIBITION/
FAIR. IN CONTRAST TO USUAL STRIDENT ANTI-US PROPAGANDA AT NORTH
KOREAN EXHIBIT, SOVIET EXHIBIT FEATURED A COLOR SPREAD OF PARTY
LEADER BREZHNEV'S
VISIT TO WASHINGTON. AMBASSADOR
KAZANSKI MADE PARTICULAR POINT OF INQUIRING WHETHER CONSUL CLARKE
AND I HAD SEEN THE FAVORABLE DISPLAY, EXPLAINING THAT HE FELT THAT
THE WASHINGTON VISIT WAS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE.
MOORE

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